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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,557	11/06/2003	Hiroshi Yamamoto	8038-1049	9561

466 7590 11/03/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HIEP

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2816

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/701,557

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO, HIROSHI

Examiner

Hiep Nguyen

Art Unit

2816



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11-06-03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities: the recitation “a current driveability than a current driveability ...” should be “a current driveability larger than a current driveability ...”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooperman et al. (US Pat. 5,329,185).

Regarding claims 1 and 2, figures 1 or 2 of Cooperman show a repeater inserted in a signal transmission line, comprising first (11A) and a second logic gates (11B) cascaded in this order along a direction of a signal transmission in the signal transmission line, each of said first and second logic gate having a logic inverting function, said first logic gate (11A) having a current driveability larger than a current driveability of said second logic gate (11B) (col. 2, lines 64-68; col.3, lines 1-13). The input signal is a clock signal.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima (US Pat. 6,510,542) in view of Cooperman (US Pat. 5,329,185).

Regarding claim 3, figure 7A of Kojima shows a semiconductor device comprising a signal transmission line and a plurality of repeaters (101) inserted in said signal transmission line to “divide said signal transmission line into a plurality of divided signal lines”, each of said repeaters comprising first and second logic gates cascaded in this order along a direction of a signal transmission in said signal transmission line, each of said first and second logic gates having a logic inverting function. Figure 7A of Kojima does not show that said first logic gate having a current driveability larger than a current driveability of said second logic gate. Figure 1 and 2 of Cooperman show that inverter (11A) is larger than inverter (11B) for increasing the drive capability of the repeater cell thus the speed is improved. Therefore, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art to replace the repeaters of Kojima with the repeaters taught by Cooperman for increasing the drive capability of the repeater cell thus the speed is improved

Regarding claim 4, it is inherent that the divided signal lines, the distances between the repeaters are longer than the distance between two inverters that form the repeater.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, figure 7A of Kojima shows a branch comprising another repeater (106) that includes a repeater taught by Cooperman including two inverters; the first inverter (11A) having a current driveability larger than a current driveability of said second inverter (11B) (col. 2, lines 64-68; col.3, lines 1-13). The input signal applied to the first inverter (11A) is a clock signal.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hiep Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1752. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hiep Nguyen

10-29-04



TUAN T. LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER